(c) and (d) The NPE and its Programme of Action provide for a definite edge for education in rural areas. Pursuant to this, a number of schemes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education.

At the Secondary level, for imparting computer education to students, a Scheme viz. Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools is implemented. The scheme is proposed to be revamped/renamed in the X Five Year Plan as Information and Computer Technology in Schools. Other initiatives include "Project Vidya" in association with INTEL for training of teachers and development of curriculum based software; certificate in computer education and X-ray Technicians' course conducted by National Open School etc. In the technical education sector, initiatives include strengthening and consolidation of infrastructural facilities in engineering and technical education institutions; establishment of more engineering and technical education institutions and increased intake capacities; establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) at Allahabad and Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management (IIITM) at Gwalior; increasing output of information technology manpower; mobilisation of private initiatives; development of technologies in emerging areas and their transfer to user agencies through technology development missions; transfer of techno-economic advances in technical education and appropriate technologies to rural people through expansion of Community Polytechnics; World Bank assisted Technician Education Project and Canada India Institute Industry Linkage Project; constitution of an All India Board on Information Technology (IT) Education under All India Council for Technical Education etc. Indira Gandhi National Open University is providing Internet education through its computer science programmes; including an Advanced Diploma in IT, Bachelor in IT etc. through its network of regional and study centres spread all over the country.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also follows a Uniform Policy for medical science education.

Computer literacy in Assam

1393. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated and released for computer literacy in rural and urban areas of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for non-utilising the allotted funds by the concerned department in the State; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) During the last three years an amount of Rs. 148.00 lakhs has been released to the State Government in 1999-2000 to clear pending bills. During 2000-2001 the CLASS scheme was under modification. The revised CLASS scheme has been launched during 2001-2002, proposal from the State Government is awaited.

Yoga Centres in high schools

1394. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to introduce 'Yoga Centres' in high schools and higher secondary schools is in force;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that grants are not sanctioned for construction of building, providing furniture and Library for these Yoga Centres;

(c) whether it is also a fact that any NGO cannot undertake training Programmes for teachers in Yoga for 3-6-12 months, without the basic infrastructure of building and furniture; and

(d) whether Government would consider providing building grants and furniture grants to the approved NGO's for the scheme in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Introduction of Yoga in Schools" for providing financial assistance to States, Union Territories and Institutions/Non-Governmental Organisations in yoga has been force since 1989. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided for teacher training up gradation of Library and construction/ expansion of hostels.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) At present there is not such provision under the scheme.